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# St. John's United Church



**An Affirming, Fully Inclusive Ministry**  
**December 9, 2018**

**Welcome to all worshipping with us today.**

You are invited to come downstairs to share in a cup of coffee or tea and some conversation after the service. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign the guest book in the church entryway and include your email address if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter.

**St. John's welcomes Children into Worship**

Families with babies/toddlers are invited into the Family Room (opposite the main entrance to the Church, at the back of the Sanctuary). Older children are welcomed into Worship with the rest of the congregation. Activity packs are available for them to take into Worship.

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## Second Sunday of Advent

Hymnals indicated by: **VU**–Voices United & **MV**–More Voices

*\*You are invited to stand, if it is comfortable for you.*

### Prelude

*Ken Dalglish*

### Welcome, Announcements, Invocation

*Rev. Alan Claassen*

### Gathering Song

*People Get Ready*

*by Curtis Mayfield*

People, get ready, there's a train a-coming  
Don't need no ticket, you just get on board  
People, get ready, there's a train a-coming  
Don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord

### Lighting of the Advent Candles of Hope & Peace

*Bill Climie*

From *Bethlehem Prayer* by The Right Rev. David Giuliano

O Mystery as grand as the universe  
**You have come to us as an infant**  
Vulnerable, fragile, beautiful  
**You have come to us in the midst of our poverty.**  
Come again, O Promiser of Peace.  
**Come again, to the city of your birth.**

*Advent candles of Hope and Peace are lit*

*Mary Quarry*

Be born again in the refugee camps.  
**Be born again in stables and homes.**  
Be born again a promise of hope  
**a sign of love and joy to the world.**  
Be born again in our hearts  
**that we might be called makers of peace.**  
Come let us worship together  
**that we might be called children of God.**

### \*Hymn

*O Come, O Come Immanuel vs. 1,6,7*

**VU #1**

### \*Opening Prayer

*Bill Climie*

**Holy Mystery, Wholly Love,**  
**as we light the candle of peace**  
**we remember the times you have been our comfort,**  
**when you have heard our cries for justice,**  
**for an end to violence and hunger.**  
**Give us the courage now to listen**  
**and to join the voices calling**  
**for peace in these times that we are living in now.**  
**For all our relations. Amen.**

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ saying:** *Rev. Alan Claassen*

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours  
with a handshake, a hug, or with hands together in prayer.*

**Regathering Song** *O Come Emmanuel (Refrain)* **VU #1**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, to Palestine as well.

**Spirit Sightings** *when we have heard a voice crying for peace*

**Scripture Reading** Luke 1:76-79, 3:1-6 *Bill Climie*

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder,  
as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Choir Anthem** *O Mary, Rock Your Little Baby* trad. Gospel

**Sermon** *Toward a Stable Peace* *Dianne Baker  
& Rev. Alan Claassen*

**A Moment for Silent Reflection**

**Hymn** *In Star and Crescent* **MV #159**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Prayer of Jesus in Song** **VU #959**

**Invitation for Offering**

**Offertory** *Peace Will Come* *by Tom Paxton*

**\*Doxology** *This Little Heart of Mine*

**\*Prayer of Dedication** *Rev. Alan Claassen*

**We are called to walk a straight path  
for the kin-dom of heaven is near.  
Let us walk in the light of hope and peace, love and joy.  
Let us bring the best ourselves to our covenant with one another  
for the beauty and the healing of the earth. May it be so. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *Prepare the Way of the Lord* **VU #10**

**\*Blessing**

**\*A Song to Move** *Prepare the Way of the Lord* **VU #10**

**Thank you** to those who contributed to our worship service this morning: readers, greeters, refreshment makers, musicians, to name just a few!



We gratefully acknowledge that we are gathered on the unceded ancestral lands of the shíshálh First Nation.



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**HOUSEKEEPING NOTES:**

- ♦ The chairs **do need to be put away** after the service today. Please stack like colors and types (arms vs no arms) 8 chairs tall, away from the wall.
- ♦ Clean-up brought to you by the letters: **B, F, K, P**  
Those whose last name begins with these letters are asked to help with cleaning up after our time of coffee, tea and fellowship together.
- ♦ **REMINDER** 'Tis the season....if you have turned the heat up, please remember to turn it back down!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St. John's United Church</b> 5085 Davis Bay Road Sechelt, BC V0N 3A2 Phone: 604.885.9822 Email: stjohs.sunshinecoast@gmail.com Website: www.stjohns-united.org Minister: Rev Alan Claassen..... alan.claassen@gmail.com ..... 604-989-7687 Minister's work week is Sunday to Thursday. Office Administrator: Karen Weatherington..... 604-885-9822 Office Hours: Tues - Thurs 1:00-3:30 pm</p>
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## St. John's Announcements

December 9, 2018

♦ **Christmas Cookie Caper** Saturday December 15 from 9am to 12 noon  
What kind should I make? This is the time when you can have fun baking your Christmas favorites.

These questions may be useful guidelines

1. Do they hold their shape well?
2. Will they look attractive on a Christmas cookie plate?
3. Are they flavorful?

*How do I bring them to church?* We will be putting them out on big trays so just bring them in convenient containers or zip locks. Put your name on the container if you want it back. Please bring them to the church between 3:00 and 6:00 pm on Friday December 14 or give us a call before then and we will pick them up.

Also, if you or your friends and neighbours cannot get to the sale, we will take pre-orders. Call Val Marus at 604.741.5424

♦ **Blue Christmas** Tuesday December 18 at 7:00 pm, St. John's  
A Blue Christmas Service is a special worship service where we can acknowledge the sadness we feel at Christmas time. This is the time when memories of past experiences and the pain of present reality can become overwhelming. In this service we will reflect on readings, songs, silence and lighting candles of remembrance that will help us find solace and comfort.

### ♦ **Christmas Eve Services**

Our two Candlelight Christmas Eve services this year will be a time of experiencing the Christmas story through the singing of our favourite carols, hearing the Scriptures, and sharing the beauty of Silent Night.

Our **7:00 pm carol service** will appeal to everyone, including children and their families. This service will include of a short drama written by Rev. Jim Hatherly entitled "Signs and Wonders." It provides us with a humorous twist on what it was like for a shepherd couple, Virgil and Elaine, to see and hear angels.

Our **10:00 pm service** is a quieter time of contemplation and communion, along with the carols, scriptures and candlelight. Ken Dalglish will provide special music for this Holy Night Service.

♦ **Prayer Shawl Ministry** More knitters would be welcome to our Wednesday 2-3:30, or Friday 10:30-12 gatherings. If you've wanted to learn to knit, we will teach you. These shawls are easy to knit and it is a good time for growing friendships. For info call Sharon McElroy at 604-399-9772. Meetings are at her home: 4459 Stalashen Dr, Sechelt (East) off Mission Pt Rd.

## Luke 1:76-79, 3:1-6

<sup>76</sup> “And you, my child, will be called  
the prophet of the Most High,  
for you’ll go before our God  
to prepare the way for the Promised One,  
<sup>77</sup> giving the people the knowledge of salvation  
through forgiveness of their sins.  
<sup>78</sup> Such is the tender mercy of our God,  
who from on high will bring the Rising Sun to visit us,  
<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who live  
in darkness and the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, Philip his brother tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene. <sup>2</sup>In those days, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John, ben-Zechariah, in the desert. <sup>3</sup>John went through the entire region of the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as is written in the words of Isaiah, the prophet:

“A herald’s voice in the desert, crying,  
‘Make ready the way of our God;  
clear a straight path.  
<sup>5</sup> Every valley will be filled,  
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.  
The twisted paths will be made straight,  
and the rough road smooth --  
<sup>6</sup> and all humankind will see the salvation of God.’”

## Peace Will Come

by Tom Paxton

Peace,  
Peace will,  
Peace will come,  
And let it begin with me.  
We,  
We need,  
We need peace,  
And let it begin with me.  
Oh, my own life  
Is all I can hope to control.  
Oh, let my life,  
Be lived for the good,  
Good of my soul.  
Let it bring peace,  
Sweet peace,  
Peace will come,  
And let it begin with me.



◆ Jazz is looking for a rental suite that is accessible by transit, and suitable for someone with a disability pension. If you have any leads, please e-mail Jazz at micbyron83@gmail.com. Your prayers are also most welcome at this time of transition

**WIDER CHURCH COMMUNITY**

◆ **St. Hilda’s Christmas Carol Sing a-long** Saturday December 15 at 2:00 pm  
Come sing songs, hear stories and share in refreshments. Admission by donation. Proceeds to outreach and St. Hilda’s Sanctuary restoration fund.

**WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS**

◆ **Messiah Part One: Christmas** Tuesday December 18 at 7:00 pm. For more info please see poster in hallway.

What’s Happening This Week				
<b>Sun</b>	<b>09</b>	9:20 am 10:00 am	Contemplative Prayer Worship Service	Ross Armstrong Rm Sanctuary
<b>Mon</b>	<b>10</b>	10:00 am 1:00 pm 2:30 pm	Qigong Ministry LOLS Team Mtg syiyaya Support Grp	Sanctuary Ross Armstrong Rm Sanctuary
<b>Tues</b>	<b>11</b>	2:00 pm 4:00 pm	Stewardship Team Mtg KLO Meeting	Ross Armstrong Rm Lower Hall
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>13</b>	10:00 am 10:00 am 1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Called to Care Team Healing Touch Ministry St. John’s Artists St. John’s Choir Rehearsal	Ross Armstrong Rm Lower Hall Lower Hall Sanctuary
<b>Fri</b>	<b>14</b>	10:30 am	Prayer Shawl Ministry	McElroy Home
<b>Sat</b>	<b>15</b>	9:00 am	Christmas Cookie Caper	Lower Hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>16</b>	9:20 am 10:00 am 3:00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Worship Service Community Song Circle	Ross Armstrong Rm Sanctuary Sanctuary